

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATIONAttorney Docket No: **61404-1090**

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses and citizenships are as stated below next to our names.

We believe we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **STORAGE VESSELS AND RELATED CLOSURE METHODS**, the specification of which:

- ☒ is attached hereto.
☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____.
☐ was filed on _____ under U.S. Express Mail No. _____.
☐ is set forth in PCT International Application No. _____;
filed on _____ and as amended Under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if any).

I/we hereby state that I/we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I/we acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I/we hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any United States provisional patent application, foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any United States provisional patent application, foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the above-identified application on which priority is claimed: **U.S. Provisional Application entitled "Vessels Using Compression Linkages"; Serial No. 60/175,444; Filed January 11, 2000**

I/we hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States patent application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I/we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application: **NOT APPLICABLE.**

I/we hereby appoint the following attorneys/agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: **George M. Thomas, Reg. No. 22,260; James W. Kayden, Reg. No. 31,532; Scott A. Horstemeyer, Reg. No. 34,183; Stephen R. Risley, Reg. No. 35,659; Jeffrey R. Kuester, Reg. No. 34,367; Daniel J. Santos, Reg. No. 40,158; Daniel R. McClure, Reg. No. 38,962; Robert E. Stachler II, Reg. No. 36,934; David P. Kelley, Reg. No. 17,420; Michael J. Tempel, Reg. No. 41,344; David R. Risley, Reg. No. 39,345; Jon E. Holland, Reg. No. 41,077; Dan R. Gresham, Reg. No. 41,805; J. Scott Culpepper, Reg. No. 41,692; M. Paul Qualey, Reg. No. 43,024; Robert P. Biddle, Reg. No. 35,826; Robert A. Blaha, Reg. No. 43,502; Jennifer M. Gruber, Reg. No. 42,601; Raymond W. Armentrout, Reg. No. 45,866**

Please address all telephone calls, in the first instance, to **M. Paul Qualey, Jr.** at telephone number: **(770) 933-9500.**

Address all correspondence to:

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THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER
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Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5948**

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statement and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Inventor's Signature: Charles W. Pennington Date: 12/21/00

Full Name of First or Sole Inventor: Charles W. Pennington

Residence: 110 Old Chartwell Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30022 Citizenship: U.S.A.

Post Office Address: 110 Old Chartwell Drive
Alpharetta, GA 30022

Inventor's Signature: [Signature] Date: 12/21/00

Full Name of First or Sole Inventor: George C. Carver

Residence: 7185 Palisades Point, Suwanee, GA 30024 Citizenship: U.S.A.

Post Office Address: 7185 Palisades Point
Suwanee, GA 30024

Docket 61404-1090

PATENTAttorney's Docket No. 61404-1090

Applicant or Patentee: Charles W. Pennington and George C. Carver
 Serial or Patent No.: To Be Assigned
 Filed or Issued: Herewith
 For: **STORAGE VESSELS AND RELATED CLOSURE METHODS**

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
 STATUS (37 C.F.R. §1.9(f) AND 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the
 concerned identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN: NAC International, Inc.
 ADDRESS OF CONCERN: 655 Engineering Drive, Norcross, Georgia 30092

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third-party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed, to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled:

STORAGE VESSELS AND RELATED CLOSURE METHODS

by inventor(s): Charles W. Pennington and George C. Carver

described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith.
☐ application serial no. _____, filed _____
☐ patent no. _____, issued _____.

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27).

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NAME: Charles W. PenningtonADDRESS: NAC International, 655 Engineering Drive, Norcross, GA 30092☐ INDIVIDUAL ☒ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any changes in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small business entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: Charles W. PenningtonTITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER: InventorADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING: 655 Engineering Drive, Norcross, Georgia 30092SIGNATURE Charles W. PenningtonDate 12/21/00

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